THE GULF WAR: Former CIA case officer Philip "Phil" (Burnett) Agee Looks at the Gulf War (1991)

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445. PHILIP AGEE LOOKS AT THE GULF WAR (1991)
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Former CIA case officer Philip "Phil" (Burnett) Agee evaluates the US role in the Gulf War. He provides some startling background and insights into the conflict, showing how the US manipulated the Iraqi leader into the invasion of Kuwait, thus providing the war which George Bush wanted.

¤ Philip Agee
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Agee

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there is plenty of evidence to suggest that Bush wanted this crisis and that the Bush administration policy was to encourage Saddam Hussein and his party to believe that they could take over Kuwait either in whole or in part with impunity this new world order or new international order that Bush is talking about looks to me like a an institutionalization or attempt to institutionalize the north/south dimension of the old Cold War which was a war for natural resources for labor and for markets we used to export you know simply the hardware tanks aircraft and so forth but this time we sent across the hardware and the people to operate it that turned it into a classic mercenary operation the sending abroad of military forces to defend a foreign regime Bush called the Persian Gulf crisis the greatest crisis since World War two remember that the greatest moral crisis since World War two well of course he was totally wrong the greatest crisis in world war two is the domestic crisis in the United States in education in health care we all know what the domestic crisis is in this country it

is racism it is drugs it is violence of every sort it is the worst educational system in the developed world it is a system in which one in three people is living in poverty either totally or in absolute poverty or so close that they have no relief from want where one in three people is illiterate either totally or to the degree that they cannot function or get along in a society based on the written word 2% of American families own 54 percent of the

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American families own 54 percent of the net financial assets of this country those are the people who really run the United States of course and they are the people for who that whom the CIA serves as does Bush and those people in the administration and the professionals who service these very wealthy people those of course our our version of the Latin American oligarchs former CIA officer Phil Agee evaluates the Gulf War and places it in context of American society and the US power structure right now on alternative views Philip Agee was a CIA officer from 1960 to 1969 serving in Ecuador Uruguay and Mexico City he quit the CIA and wrote a very significant book inside the company since that time Agee has been travelling around the world and writing books and making speeches this Beach which will see on alternative views was recorded in

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see on alternative views was recorded in April of 1991 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology we'll have Phil AG's speech in a few minutes after a couple of news stories from the alternative press well here we are in the midst of recession well well aware of that layoffs are rising corporate profits are weak lots of bankruptcy but during this time pay in 1994 the nation's top executives rose by a bigger percentage than the wages of any other group of American workers many chairman and CEO s receive these huge annual salaries under what the corporate system calls paper for performance in other words as corporate profits rise so do executive profits however in 1990 neither profits north stock prices rose at hundreds of companies but the pay of top echelon executives went way up anyway now these increase this came when most American workers received raises of less than 5% which didn't even keep up with inflation but the average pay for chief executives of large companies runs up to 80 well up to over 100 but averages 83 times 83 times the annual wages of the American average American worker the gap is 83 times gap doubled in the last 15 years it was 41 in 1977 41 times now it's 83 times and also the spread between America's executives and those of other industrial nations have increased other industrial

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nations have increased other industrial nations their top executives run 20 times their average workers so our guys are getting an average of four times more relatively than other CEOs in industrialized nations in fact we receive we are chief executives received twice as much as our counterparts in Canada and Germany and they rank second and third and CEO salaries a survey by peat Marwick when the Big Eight County firms a big company shows that in 1990 executive pay rose by more than 15 percent over 1989 levels remember that the average worker got less than 5% you might wonder how much that is how much these people are actually taking home well at the hundred and seventy six big corporations surveyed by Stephen Bryce who tracks executive pay practices at this accounting firm towers parent the median compensation for CEOs at these hundred six corporations was 1.7 million dollars in 1990 and for you mathematicians out there that's thirty four thousand dollars a month according to Dennis Bernstein of the Pacific News Service the worst is still yet to come for the Iraqi people or international attention has focused on the desperate plight of Iraq's Kurds millions of other Iraqis are also grave risk especially children say international relief organizations and medical experts who have toured Iraq in

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medical experts who have toured Iraq in recent weeks and the Bush administration has no plans to attend to the burgeoning health catastrophe for the Iraqi people according to dr. David Levinson after visiting Iraq with the Pulitzer Prize winning no doubt the Nobel prize-winning international physicians for the Prevention of

nuclear war the wars real [__] lies in the destruction of the health of an entire people through targeting key parts of the infrastructure that supports civilian life Under Secretary of the United Nations Martti Ahtisaari who's the leader of the UN's mid-march investigation team that toured through Iraq echoes this sentiment noting that we have seen or read has quite prepared us for the particular form of devastation which has befallen the country now most forms of modern life support have been destroyed or rendered tenuous these life support systems begin with water prior to the war according to Bernstein the average citizen of Baghdad received 450 litres of water a day that are pumped from the Tigris River through the electrical powered water treatment stations but the destruction of all significant electrical power generating plants in Iraq has rendered this source of water supply useless and turned water from a source of life into a prime character carrier of death and disease according to the United Nations pumps depend on power the UN says which they don't have and the water and sewage treatment depends on chemicals which are also blocked by the embargo as a result raw sewage is being dumped into the Tigris and sometimes even backing up overflowing into people's homes many Iraqis reduced to subsisting on 30 to 40 litres of water a day have turned to drawing polluted water from the Tigris this combination is a recipe for a public health catastrophe at the height

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public health catastrophe at the height of the air war according to Iraq's Minister of Health Abdul Mohammed the greatest concern was from bad drinking water he estimated that 3,000 deaths had already occurred from bad drinking water and probably 2,000 people are under some kind of medical care from drinking contaminated water since then saved the children reports the typhoid cases have tripled diarrhea cases have quadrupled and polio and meningitis have reappeared concerns that these diseases could reach epidemic proportions are compounded by the damage sustained by Iraq's healthcare system for instance 14 hospitals and healthcare facilities were damaged in the bot bombing that even a bigger problem is the lack of electrical power without power according to doctors who have visited Iraq all that we associate with modern health the storing of blood the preparation of cultures preserving medicines and vaccines for children's doing x-rays all these techniques of modern medicine become impossible at some hospitals that the physicians for Social Responsibility visited doctors were performing surgery under kerosene lamps often on victims burned in accidents with kerosene utensils hospitals also according to these doctors lack basic medicine and enough clean water for adequate sanitation one doctor told the visiting US doctors that he's afraid and instead of being a place where diseases are cured the hospital is going to be a place where diseases are being spread other problems according to ax fam which is international relief organization is the health care workers can't get out into the fields to visit the small towns of Iraq to prevent the spread of epidemics and according to the International Red Cross there's also a wave of epidemics that are beginning to spread through the south of Iraq through

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spread through the south of Iraq through Basra that was destroyed by bombing Allied bombing and then suffered from the Civil War and all of the small towns of southern Iraq are already facing cholera and other epidemics the food situation is also grim in Iraq Iraq imports 70% of its food and the seven months of sanctions compared with coupled with the war have also severely squeezed existing supplies the destruction of key agricultural facilities including animal vaccine factories many seed warehouses have jeopardized future harvests making widespread starvation a real possibility another problem I read in peace net was that the United States will not allow the Iraqis to use their helicopters to drop pesticides on some of the crops that require pesticides for our survival so whereas Bush allowed the Iraqis to use helicopters to bomb the Kurds and some of the Shiite rebels in the south they're not allowing the Iraqis to use their hila copters anymore to spray pesticides on their fields and so thus the Iraqis are facing starvation so according to all of the international health organizations that have visited Iraq recently it's a human catastrophe in Iraq according to the UN it's near apocalyptic conditions and none of this has been indicated on the mainstream media that just shows Americans soldiers first doing favors for the refugees in the south of Iraq and more recently helping the Kurds out in the north of Iraq but according to Tony courtesan who courtesan who you heard on ABC as there a commentator the Iraqi people deserve

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a commentator the Iraqi people deserve all of this punishment he told a Brookings Institute seminar that the Iraqi people should be punished for tolerating their government he said I think we should use economic concessions to try to force Saddam Hussein out of power and in the process we should not become too involved with the harm that is done to the Iraqi people because they deserve anything that happens to them we'll have more news stories later in the program but now we're going to turn to our speech by Phil Agee presented by the speak out organization from San Francisco Phil was a CIA officer for nine years serving in Latin America well we all know that we why the United States went into the Gulf we were responding to naked aggression we were preserving and defending quote-unquote our way of life jobs were at stake you remember that one from Baker and then it was a return to stopping naked aggression and the aggression cannot be rewarded we all know that we responded from moral principle and from political principle we also know that Bush went into the Persian Gulf in order to restore to his throne the Emir or dictator of Kuwait and here we have seen just recently his return and the development of Kuwait or the return to way of that principled democratic system they have thereof based on what we all

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they have thereof based on what we all treasure one man one vote one vote by the Emir well there are alternative explanations I think and analyses of why we went into the Persian Gulf one that we haven't seen really in any meaningful way is the interpretation that a crisis was needed to replace the crisis in Western Europe the east/west crisis which largely disappeared with the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe a crisis that would allow for the continuation of the 40 odd year-old war economy in the United States where in more than half the budget the federal budget is taken up with military expenditures you know that the official figure for 1990 was 26% of the national budget going to military expenditures but that 26% is very convenient for those who want to cover it up because they do not factor into that 20% or 26% many of the most important military costs such as interest on the national debt from past military expenditures the retirement benefits for tens of thousands of former Department of Defense employees civilian employees and many other items analysts who have studied this the matter have come up with figures going up to 55 to 60 percent people like gore Vidal puts it at two-thirds the federal budget going for national defense well that is a system which was certainly at risk wasn't it with the collapse of communism in in Europe and the only reason that that could have been kept going all through these years has been of course the so-called Soviet threat or the permanent crisis atmosphere that developed following 1950 and the Korean

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developed following 1950 and the Korean War there is plenty of evidence to suggest that Bush wanted this crisis and that the Bush administration policy was to encourage Saddam Hussein and his party to believe that they could take over Kuwait or either in whole or in part with impunity consider the following Iraq already had historical claims over Kuwait for several centuries Kuwait had been the southern part of the Basra province of the Ottoman Empire under the Turks and when after World War two with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire Kuwait was severed from Basra the Iraqis did not accept it the British at that time had moved in as the French did in other parts of the Middle East in order to fill the vacuum left with the collapse of the Turkish Empire the British in 1922 drew the first lines in the sand delineating boundaries for the first time in history between Jordan Iraq Kuwait and Saudi Arabia these lines drawn by Sir Percy Cox in 1922 he was the British High Commissioner in Baghdad these lines were drawn deliberately to deprive Iraq of a viable seaport the British wanted no competition from Baghdad which at that time the cultural and commercial capital of the Gulf region - their dominance of the Persian Gulf where they converted no less than 10 shape terms into colonies including Kuwait when Kuwait was given its independence by the British in 1961 the Iraqis massed troops on the border and threatened to take the territory back by force but Britain rushed military forces to Kuwait and the Iraqis back down the Iraqis threatened to do the very same thing in 1972 and

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to do the very same thing in 1972 and 1976 so there were historical Iraqi claims on Kuwait there were also immediate grievances based partly on Kuwaiti overproduction of petroleum in 1986 the OPEC countries had set $18 per barrel as the bench price for for the world petroleum market but the Kuwaiti 's and the United Arab Emirates for quite a long time since then had been over producing forcing the price down as low as about 13 dollars last June that price was the best price that industrialised countries and importers like the United States were paying for petroleum at constant dollars for more than 40 years it was hurting the Iraqi economy because the Iraqis had something like seventy to eighty billion dollars in debt from their war their eight-year war with Iran during the 1980s and they were demanding that the Iraqis forgive those loans which had helped finance that war so there are a number of different immediate grievances another one was the theft of petroleum from Iraq's Rumaila field which is this vast oil field dipping into disputed territory between Iraq and Kuwait in April the Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs a man whose name is John Kelly testified before the US Congress that the United States had no commitment to defend Kuwait in July the OPEC oil ministers met in Geneva that's mid July and Iraq was demanding a raise in the oil price and also the the elimination of overproduction on the part of Kuwait and the Emirates Iraq at that time massed 30,000 troops on the Kuwaiti border Hussein got part of what he wanted the the Emirates and Kuwait

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he wanted the the Emirates and Kuwait agreed to stop over producing new quotas were silk said in order to maintain a new price of twenty one dollars per barrel even though Iraq had asked for 25 in any case things were not settled even with that because Iraq was continuing to demand that Kuwait leased to Iraq two small islands Mubi under barber in the at the head of the Persian Gulf which would have provided Iraq with a viable seaport Kuwait refused Kuwait also refused to forgive the loans that had been made to finance Iraq's war with Iran negotiators met in Saudi Arabia between the two countries on the 1st of August Kuwait did not compromise and the next day Saddam Hussein invaded well the United States was not unaware that this was coming by any means on April 25th some of you have read this I'm sure honey I mean on July 25th April Glaspie the US ambassador to Iraq had a meeting a face-to-face meeting with Saddam Hussein at that meeting she said according to a transcript apparently the Iraqis recorded the conversation secretly and later made available the transcript a transcript which by the way has not been disputed by the Department of State at this meeting the US ambassador said to Saddam Hussein I have a direct instruction from the Secretary of State to emphasize to you that the United States has quote/unquote no opinion on your border disputes with Kuwait she also said I have an instruction from the president to seek better relations with Iraq at this time there were 100,000 Iraqi troops poised on the border because after the OPEC conference in Geneva in Geneva in mid-july the Iraqis did not withdraw those 30,000 troops they more than tripled them - something like 100,000 during this time also in the days following or the week following the ambassador's meeting

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week following the ambassador's meeting with the Seine up to the invasion the CIA according to press reports and according to senator Boren who is the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee the CIA was predicting that Iraq would invade Kuwait and in fact in the meeting between the US ambassador and Hussein Hussein himself responded to her saying in effect that he was going to take drastic action against Kuwait if they did not agree to his demands so it was as clear as crystal I believe that Hussein was going to invade Kuwait but during the that week that crucial week between the ambassador's meeting with the sane and the invasion with those 100,000 Iraqi troops on the border the Bush administration did absolutely nothing and there were things they could have done they could have called for example aid an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council they could have sent a multinational military force to Kuwait to defend that country just as the British had done earlier they could have issued public warnings but they did something to the contrary they prohibited the United States Information Agency from making a warning to

Hussein on a program that had been scheduled the Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly himself killed that program and forbid any US government warnings to Hussein or to the thousands of people who might become hostages in the event of an invasion of Kuwait then two days before the invasion the same Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly goes before the Congress one more time and again he says the United States has no commitment to defend Kuwait well put all those things together and it certainly seems to add up to a situation in which the United States was enticing or encouraging Hussein to take over Kuwait in order to create a new international crisis in a key position of the world certainly if Hussein took over Kuwait he

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certainly if Hussein took over Kuwait he would control then 20% of the known petroleum reserves in the world a concentration in radical nationalist Arab hands that would be too great to be accepted by any Western industrialized country and even by Iraq's principled arms supplier the Soviet Union well when bush came out with the remark very early on that quote our way of life is at stake he reminded me quite clearly of something that President Truman had said back in 1950 you know the decision was taken in 1950 to establish the permanent war economy that is to make military expenditures the motor of the US economy it was because there was tremendous fear that we were heading back to the conditions of the depression of the 1930s during those first five years after the end of World War two up to 1950 the United States economy had contracted or the GNP had declined by 20% and unemployment which had been almost nothing in 1945 700,000 had gone up to 4.7 million the highest echelons of the Truman administration considered the problem and decided that the way to avoid a return to the condition of the 1930s was military expenditures rearmament in the United States and in Western Europe the entire plan was drawn up in a document called NSC 68 NSC standing for National Security Council it was written by Paul nipsey who was then the chief of the policy planning staff of the Department of State this is a 40 page document was top-secret for 25 years and released only by accident in 1975 and published my version of it which comes from the Naval War College magazine runs to about 48 or 50 pages it's a world analysis and the u.s. role

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it's a world analysis and the u.s. role in the world the key flows from that document was this the United States and other free nations will within a period of a few years at most experienced a decline in economic activity various proportions unless more positive governmental programs are developed well the solution adopted the more positive governmental programs was the rearming not only of the United States but also of Western Europe the problem we faced at that time from an economic point of view was that United States exports were not sufficient to sustain the economy and the subsidy program known as the Marshall Plan having failed there had to be other ways to get enough dollars over to Western Europe to foment European imports from the United States that would sustain the US economy and remilitarization of Western Europe with Germany West Germany as the key pivotal country was adopted the money was transferred then in billions of dollars through so-called defense support grants and the economic situation in the United States was saved at least through that method and we have been with this permanent war economy ever since of course it took a crisis it took a threat and the Department of State and other agencies set about to create that permanent crisis atmosphere to create the Soviet Union as a threat to our way of life but because there are so much money involved Truman could not get the money from Congress right away it took the Korean War a real crisis to enable him to defeat congressional opposition and get the money the war you know started in June 1950 and by September the Allied troops with which the United States had

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troops with which the United States had formed under a an alliance and under the UN banner very similar to the Gulf crisis had forced the North Koreans back up to the 38th parallel the boundary and that is what the UN sanctions called for for expelling North Korea from South Korea that would have ended the war right then and there three months after it started if Truman had accepted a Soviet proposal in the United Nations but he had to keep this crisis going because he needed to use the Korean War to overcome congressional

opposition to this rearmament program he had another plan he violated the UN the UN Charter or the UN resolutions in fact by invading North Korea threatening to overthrow the communist government of North Korea and reunite the country under the dictatorship that the United States had imposed in a South well the Chinese said they were going to come into the war if that advance toward the Yellow River the boundary between North Korea and China was not stopped Truman did not stop the forces the Chinese entered and by november US forces were again retreating south by December the newspapers here that all the media were full of stories and pictures of retreating US troops before hordes of advancing Chinese communist troops it was then early December that Truman went on national radio he declared a state of national emergency and he said what Bush's remarks about our way of life being a state reminded me of Truman mustered all the hype and emotion that he could and he said our homes our nation all the things that we believe in are in great danger this danger has been created by the rulers of the Soviet Union well he also called at that time for massive increases in u.s. rearmament expenditures and for the rearmament of Western Europe he got the money then but

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Western Europe he got the money then but of course the Soviet was not a threat at all they were still rebuilding from the rubble of World War two where they had lost something like 20 million people they were not a threat but this was part of the whole scenario to create the international crisis the international threat in order to justify the militarism which Truman was beginning and he got the money he wanted the in two years from 1950 to 1952 the US military budget more than tripled from 13 billion in nineteen fifty to forty four billion in 1952 and US military forces doubled to three point six million people from that time on we have lived in the United States with this military economy and that is the thing that bush I think in the Gulf wanted to save he had to have another crisis as I've said twice already he had to have another crisis to replace the one that disappeared in Western Europe well in the Cold War you know there was a there were several dimensions a lot of people you will hear say the Cold War is over well I say to those who think the Cold War is over that they should think once more the east-west dimension in Western Europe between the United States and NATO and the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact that east-west dimension in Europe has indeed largely disappeared but there was always a north/south dimension of the Cold War and that is the war against the so-called third world that is in fact where the fighting really took place as in Vietnam this new world order or new international order that Bush is talking about looks to me like a an institutionalization or attempt to institutionalize the north/south dimension of the old Cold War which was a war for natural resources for labor and for markets and our dependence this

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and for markets and our dependence this that is the Western dependence and especially the United States economic dependence on the natural resources of third world countries is certainly not going to disappear we need still to attempt to control those resources and this Gulf intervention of course is not at all about stopping naked aggression we have produced naked aggression we have connived and naked aggression we have encouraged naked aggression in many different ways and that naked aggression that we have encouraged has often been very well rewarded take turkeys occupation since the 1970s a 1/3 of Cyprus they have received something like 9 billion dollars in US aid the Israelis are now at this very moment occupying the territories they're occupying part occupying part of Syria and part of Lebanon there are many different examples takeover of East Timor in the 1970s the United States even encouraged that and an enormous it may have been 10 or 15 percent of the population of East Timor was killed in the Indonesian suppression of their independence they had been a Portuguese colony up until the Indonesians tried to annex them many of us have seen the discussion going on about who should pay for this how much the Germans should pay how much the Japanese should pay how much should be paid to countries whose economies were affected by the war Turkey Jordan Egypt for example this always seemed like such a false argument to me the Kuwaitis have more than 100 billion dollars invested outside their country true keo keo the Kuwait Investment Office

based in London with branches in New York and Madrid and Paris and all over they have more than 1 billion dollar 100 billion dollars invested abroad and they have enormous petroleum reserves I think they can peak keep on pumping for probably

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can peak keep on pumping for probably another hundred years and they won't run out they will certainly have enough to pay from past earnings and from future earnings the salary is the same we went there first to defend the Saudi regime and the Saudi natural resources petroleum they too are making enough money from it to pay all the cost there is no reason why one American should pay one cent for that operation those countries should pay and that would conform with reality where in United States military forces have been exported abroad like one more export we used to export you know simply the hardware tanks aircraft and so forth but this time we sent across the hardware and the people to operate it that turned it into a classic mercenary operation the sending abroad of military forces to defend a foreign regime and I don't say mercenary in a totally derogatory sense because George Washington may not have one the war for independence against Britain if it hadn't been for the Hessian mercenaries who came over and fought at his side well the CIA of course was a very important tool in the Cold War and certainly it was important in building up Saddam Hussein in Iraq I suppose most of you have read already that the United States in its support for Iraq all during that war with Iran was giving Iraq the best intelligence possible on Iranian troop movements it was what I've read is that they were giving them real-time satellite information so that they could confront and defeat the Iranian forces in that war I even read one very good report from The Washington Post that the CIA office in Baghdad became much more important than the ambassador's own office because that is the office where the Iraqis wanted to deal most but the question arises when

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deal most but the question arises when we talk about these foreign interventions whether they are the secret interventions for the support of death squads and torture or whether it is in the sending of 500,000 troops to smash a third world country that got out of line we still have to ask the question why do we do these things and whose interest are these activities when I was a trainee in the CIA I was taught that the Soviet Union's foreign policy its expansionism its belligerence was a direct product of the domestic system in the Soviet Union the requirements of the Soviet Communist Party to retain a monopoly on power I think any political scientist would agree that a society's or a nation's domestic policy is a direct product of its domestic system so if we want to answer the question of why we do these grisly things abroad like like hosing all those retreating Iraqi soldiers who had no way of defending themselves killing between 100,000 and to thousand people well when we want to ask answer the question of why we do these things abroad we have to come back I think and look at the domestic system in this country and this system of course is a system in great crisis bush called the Persian Gulf crisis the greatest crisis since World War two remember that the greatest moral crisis since World War two well of course he was totally wrong the greatest crisis in world war two is the domestic crisis in the United States in education in healthcare we all know what the domestic crisis is in this country it is racism it is drugs it is violence of every sort it is the worst educational system in the developed world it is a system in which 1 in 3 people is living in poverty either totally or in absolute poverty or so close that they have no relief from want

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close that they have no relief from want where one in three people is illiterate either totally or to the degree that they cannot function or get along in a society based on the written word and we have a system in which one in three Americans does not even register to vote and if those who do register 20% of them don't vote meaning that only about 50% of the potential voters vote in national elections in this country therein we elect a president with about 24 or 25 percent of the potential vote we don't have popular participation even in the political process well this is I hate to say the way it's supposed to be when I came back to the United States in 1987 for the first time in 17 years you remember what we were doing don't you we were celebrating the

200th anniversary of the Constitution I watched all that orgy of self-congratulation that year and it reminded me of a passage in one of Noam Chomsky's books turning the tide on Central America in that book he discussed the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia where 55 men got together in total secrecy not one word was revealed until more than 50 years after the convention one word of what was said there to find solutions to problems in governing the United States under the Articles of Confederation the question arose sti's Tomsky wrote who really is to govern the United States and John Jay had the answer you remember John Jay was the president of the Continental Congress that fought the war for independence and he was also the first Chief Justice of the United States of the Supreme Court John Jay had the answer he said well of course the people who own the United States ought to govern it and so they wrote the Constitution at his suggestion they wrote out of the political process

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they wrote out of the political process something like 95% of the inhabitants of the United States democracy was the last thing they had in mind in writing the Constitution there is a book up here called toward an American Revolution it's by Jerry Fraser a PhD from UMass at Amherst which I tell people would be the best ten dollars they can spend on a book during their four five or six years in university because that is the story of how the Constitution was adopted and who the people were who wrote it they were the elite of colonial society the lawyers the merchants the bankers the slaveholders the landowners and so forth the wealthy people and they wrote it to protect their wealth they wrote it to enshrine what is still the first human right in the United States all others are secondary the first human right here is to accumulate wealth and the power that goes with it all others like the right to life the right to education the right to housing the right to a job the right to proper health care all those are secondary the Constitution enshrined that one right before any other well I highly recommend Frazier's book that Constitution really is the root of the problem of the of the domestic crisis that we have today in my opinion there have been some 25 amendments amendments and a lot of legislation over these 200 years but the rules of the game has laid down in the Constitution are the same as they were at the beginning it was the original pact between the political forces to keep the political debate in the United States as narrow as possible and to make those rules of the game as hard to change as possible it's the root of the situation in when we go out and vote today and we're selecting between Republicans and Democrats were really only choosing between on the one hand Tweedledum and on the other Tweedledee

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Tweedledum and on the other Tweedledee and there there are there are of course many people who would like to see a I sometimes say third and make a mistake a second party in the United States and that would be possible but this domestic crisis crisis makes it very difficult if we solve the education problem and we had informed voters and participants in the political process if we solve health problems for example if people had a an attraction to the political process then there would be a real threat of democracy in this country and that is what is behind in my opinion the war economy in the first place the continuation of the war economy and the need for this crisis in the Gulf yes well I did mention this book by Derrick for Asia toward American Revolution and those of course were the original oligarchs weren't they of this country if the system has continued of course we have you know I used to think that Latin America was terrible in terms of the distribution of wealth and income but then I learned from the Catholic Bishops report on the economy of 1987 I think it is that 2% of American families owned 54% of the net financial assets of this country 2% of American families on 54% of the net financial assets of this country those are the people who really run the United States of course and they are the people for whom that whom the CIA serves as does Bush and all those people in the administration and the

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people in the administration and the professionals who serviced these very wealthy people those of course are our version of the Latin American oligarchs we should also continue in international solidarity as before the FMLN in El Salvador and the FDR they need our solidarity as much as they ever did the same going the same goes for the FSLN in Nicaragua and the same goes for Cuba which is very likely to be seen as incompatible with Bush's new international order I've just spent a week in Cuba I came back from there two weeks ago and I had probably the most interesting trip I've had there in the 20 years that I've been coming and going and working in solidarity with the revolution they are in extreme crisis and they need our help and hope also that we can break the information blockade on what is really happening in Cuba so that ordinary Americans who have a sense of decency will see that this policy against Cuba for the last how many years thirty at least 1960 yeah thirty is erroneous and that we ought to open up trade and commerce with Cuba one more thing that we can do certainly on the campuses and certainly on a campus like this where there has been such a long and important CIA presence is activism against the CIA on the campuses there certainly is no there certainly is no justification in allowing for example murder incorporated to come on the campuses of the United States to recruit young Americans to go into that work finally I might just mention this last Thursday I participated in a press

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Thursday I participated in a press conference with Ramsey Clark in New York at the UN in which he announced a war crimes tribunal which will be international in scope and will seek to raise all the evidence and information on war crimes committed by the United States and its allies against Iraq this includes all of those items which specifically fall under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 including targeting civilian areas targeting the life support civilian life support system of civilians such as water supply such as electricity such as sewage systems killing retreating soldiers who have no way to defend themselves those kinds of things are all very specifically spelled out and this is just starting up now last Thursday the first delegation went to among five people to start collecting information from refugees there and it so happened that just a few days ago I was speaking with a friend who knows a family very well whose son had written home from the Gulf saying that he had seen with his own eyes u.s. soldiers executing Iraqi prisoners he wants to make that public and I urge all of you who know people who are in the military who are over there or who have relatives who somehow can get the word out if anyone wants to talk about what happened they have a place to go and this is to this Tribunal well finally I would say that we should and must spread the word about Bush's lies and his hypocrisy on the Gulf intervention and his bombing of Iraq back to the pre-industrial age for no reason but for his own re-election you know that last September and October when were having the elections Bush was saying the sanctions are working but he realized that for his own reelection they might take more than two years to

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they might take more than two years to work and come 1992 and the electoral campaign he might be seen very much as Jimmy Carter was seen in 1980 as hostage to a foreign crisis as weak as indecisive and he made the decision right then they're unsure to trade all these lives for his own re-election because the sanctions would have worked no country has ever been blockaded by the whole world it was like a medieval city siege and they would have worked but they wouldn't perhaps have worked soon enough for Bush's reelection we must reject his boast when 1992 comes that he made the world safe from Saddam Hussein and we must eject eject him from the white house in order to make the world safe from George Bush I thank you the speech of Phil ag's was videotaped at MIT on the 4th of April 1991 produced by speak out and here are some of the names of the people and organizations that made the production possible if you're interested in having Phil Agee speak to your organization here is the address of speak out in San Francisco their phone number is four one five eight six four four five six one you also might be interested in seeing a list of publications concerning the CIA and the Gulf War there's the covert action information bulletin lies of our times the CIA off campus handbook unclassified

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the CIA off campus handbook unclassified Middle East report Palestine focus now these are ones which are dealing more specifically with the Gulf War now let's return to a couple of special reports and news stories from the alternative press I saw an interesting testament of how many civilians there were in the Iraqi war and that was a estimation by a German military man who pointed out that there was a hundred and twenty sort thousand u.s. sorties allied sorties flown over Iraq during the forty some days of the war and he said he calculates that 150,000 to 200,000 civilians were killed in the US bombing and among the military he estimates that 160 thousand were killed so this comes to about half a million victims of the Araki war and the question that this german military man raised was it worth it to quote unquote liberate Kuwait to kill half a million Iraqis and to totally destroy their economic and a human infrastructure of the country with the most intense bombing raids since World War two three years ago prompted by terrifying stories of death and suffering caused by inaccurate medical tests from unregulated laboratories Congress passed the law establishing strict standards for a medical laboratory testing throughout the nation but the law has never been carried out the Bush administration has missed virtually every deadline for action and federal health officials say

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action and federal health officials say that the standards aren't likely to be enforced before next year if then problem of delay actually goes back even further to a 1986 law by Congress which directed the DHHS to report to to them on minimum standards that might be used to regulate laboratories and doctors offices the report was due in April 1987 so far Congress hasn't seen it this new law the one was passed in 88 says that on April 1st 1990 and annually thereafter the government has to publish data about the performance of laboratories that have been penalized under Medicare Medicaid or convicted under federal or state laws relating to fraud and abuse false Billings or kickbacks the administration has yet to make that information available by January 1990 the government was supposed to establish procedures for imposing civil and criminal penalties and fines so forth on laboratories that violated standards they have yet to adopt such procedures and they're still working on some kind of proposal and again the law directed the Public Health Service to study five topics including problems in the diagnosis and treatment of patients caused by inaccurate laboratory test results the reports were supposed to be sent by May 1st 1990 but so far no work has been done and federal officials say that the studies will not be completed until 1993 or 1994 even I've got a few more examples of the kind of thing that's happened this is pretty good 20 years after Congress ordered the EPA the Environmental Protection Agency to identify and regulate hazardous air pollutants the agency has issued emission standards for seven chemicals

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emission standards for seven chemicals in 1987 Congress established a comprehensive program of assistance to homeless people but recently federal district judge Oliver gash accused the administration of a complete failure to comply with the law saying pitifully few unused federal properties have is made available to assist the homeless and the government has yet to issue a final regulations for cleaning up waste storage sites under in 1984 law as a result thousands of companies are acting under a cloud of doubt and uncertainty they may be shut down at any minute when when and if these regulations are however put forth and in most cases federal officials blame these problems on the complexities of the laws that Congress didn't understand what they were asking and there's not enough money to set these things up but it's more likely part of a sort of a broader attitude by our highest government officials of contempt for the laws that are supposed to regulate this nation and that brings us to the end of another alternative views we'd like to thank Eric Ewbank who's our crew for our new section and the organization's speak out for providing us with a tape of the speed by

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